

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 THE HA 02301 061632Z

43

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-03 INR-07 L-02 ACDA-05

NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 USIA-06 TRSE-00 SAJ-01

DODE-00 EB-07 COME-00 MC-02 OMB-01 /051 W

----- 039668

P 061559Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 5843

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY OSLO PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L THE HAGUE 2301

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, NL, BE

SUBJ: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER: DUTCH-BELGIUM MAY 3 "SUMMIT MEETING"

1. INFORMATION FROM DUTCH SOURCES, NOTABLY FONOFF DIRECTOR FOR NATO AFFAIRS VAN EEKELEN AND GENERAL STOKLA WHO WERE PRESENT, INDICATES THAT MAY 3 MEETING OF DUTCH AND BELGIAN PRIMINS AND SEVERAL OF THEIR MINISTERIAL COLLEAGUES WAS INDECISIVE AND FROM DUTCH POINT OF VIEW HARDLY WORTH THE EFFORT.

2. IN KEEPING WITH HIS PENCHANT FOR TIGHT-LIPPED ENIGMATICISM, STOKLA IN A TELEPHONE CONVERSATION SIMPLY MADE IT CLEAR THAT THE BELGIAN GOVERNMENT WAS JUST AS DIVIDED OVER THE REPLACEMENT FIGHTER QUESTION AFTER THE MEETING AS BEFORE. VAN EEKELEN WAS MORE EXPLICIT. HE SAID THAT IN CONTRAST TO PRIMIN DEN UYL WHO STATED CLEARLY THAT THE NETHERLANDS HAD A PREFERENCE FOR THE F-16 FOR WELL-KNOWN REASONS, PRIMIN TINDEMANN'S HAD LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE TO SAY AND DEFERRED TO DEFENSE MINISTER VAN DEN BOEYNANTS WHO DID MOST OF THE TALKING.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 THE HA 02301 061632Z

HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO VAN EEKELEN, VANDEN BOEYNANTS'

PERFORMANCE WAS NOT VERY IMPRESSIVE AS HE TENDED WHEN ASKED A PRACTICAL QUESTION BY THE DUTCH SIDE TO JUMP IN NON SEQUITUR FASHION TO ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE ISSUE.

3. CONVERSELY, VAN EEKELEN SAID MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS LUBBERS WAS THE SURPRISE STAR PERFORMER FOR THE DUTCH SIDE. AT A CERTAIN POINT IN THE PROCEEDINGS VANDEN BOEYNANTS, PRESUMABLY ON THE BASIS OF RECENT PRESS REPORTS THAT LUBBERS QUESTIONED THE OFFSET VALUE OF THE F-16, SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR THE VIEWS OF THE NETHERLANDS MINISTER OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS. LUBBERS' REPLY WHICH PULLED NO PUNCHES WAS TO THE EFFECT THAT THE F-16 PROPOSAL WOULD PROVIDE 100 PERCENT OFFSET FOR LOCAL COSTS AND PERHAPS EVEN MORE DEPENDING ON THE EVENTUAL TOTAL PRODUCTION RUN. LUBBERS THEREFORE CAME OUT SOLIDLY FOR THE F-16 OVER THE MIRAGE TO THE SURPRISE AND CHAGRIN OF VANDEN BOEYNANTS.

4. VAN EEKELEN (WHO WAS PRESENT AS DUTCH NOTETAKER) SAID HIS PRIME MINISTER WAS VISIBLY ANNOYED BY THE DISORGANIZED NATURE OF THE DISCUSSIONS AND AT ONE POINT CALLED CADIDLY UPON HIS BELGIAN HOSTS TO GIVE A LITTLE MORE STRUCTURE TO THE MEETING. ACCORDING TO VAN EEKELEN DEN UYL'S IRRITATION WAS NOT IMPROVED WHEN AT THE END OF THE MEETING TINDEMANN'S ASKED THE DUTCH IF THEY WOULD AGREE TO HOLD OFF ON THEIR DECISION UNTIL MAY 9 TO ALLOW THE GOB TIME FOR FURTHER INTERNAL DISCUSSION. DEN UYL REPLIED NONCOMMITTALLY THAT HE WOULD HAVE TO SEE ABOUT THAT.

5. COMMENT: VAN EEKELEN, WHO LIKE EVERY OTHER RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL IN THE FOREIGN MINISTRY, INCLUDING FONMIN VAN DER STOEL, IS FIRMLY IN SUPPORT OF THE F-16, SAID THAT THE ONLY DIVISION WITHIN THE GON IS BETWEEN THOSE WHO LIKE THE FOREIGN MINISTRY PEOPLE RECOMMEND THAT THE NETHERLANDS MAKE A DECISION FOR THE F-16 WITHOUT FURTHER DELAY AND THOSE WHO FAVOR SOME FURTHER POSTPONEMENT IN ORDER TO GIVE DEN UYL TIME TO FORCE THE F-16 GRADUALLY DOWN THE THROAT OF THE LABOR PARTY. GIVEN THE FAST-CHANGING NATURE OF THIS FOUR-DIMENSIONAL GAME, VAN
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 THE HA 02301 061632Z

EEKELEN DID NOT HAZARD A GUESS AS TO WHEN THE GON WOULD MAKE OR ANNOUNCE ITS DECISION BUT HE APPEARED TO HAVE NO DOUBT THAT WHEN IT CAME IT WOULD BE THE F-16.
GOULD

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY AIRCRAFT, MILITARY ASSISTANCE, OFFSET PAYMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 MAY 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975THEHA02301
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750158-0757
From: THE HAGUE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750575/aaaacrft.tel
Line Count: 111
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 11 APR 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <11 APR 2003 by Izenbel0>; APPROVED <16 APR 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
05 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: REPLACEMENT FIGHTER: DUTCH-BELGIUM MAY 3 "SUMMIT MEETING"
TAGS: MASS, NL, BE
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006